

A. R. Benner and F. H. Fobes, *The Letters of Alciphron, Aelian, and Philostratus, With an English Translation (Loeb Classical Library)*. Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1949. Pp. xi, 587, 10. \$3.00.

These late Greek letters, whose dates are impossible to establish except to say they are written after Lucian's time, are pleasant if not very important reading. Alciphron's, written as by fishermen, farmers, parasites, and courtesans, are the most attractive, colorful, and valuable of the three groups; there is in them many a clear glimpse of Greek life. The hard lot of both the Greek farmer and the parasite (for different reasons, of course) is realistically portrayed, and the courtesans' letters present a close and at times almost unnerving picture of the Athenian demimonde. Aelian's letters, much fewer in number, deal with farmers alone. The quality of the letters of Philostratus is much inferior to that of Alciphron's; they are more artificial, pedantic, and frigid, even though they are love letters addressed to both women and boys. Mr. Fobes completed the volume, which had been brought to a first draft by Mr. Benner before the latter's death in 1940. The introductions painstakingly, although fruitlessly, discuss the dates of the authors; the relations of the manuscripts are also treated to some purpose, and careful indexes complete the volume. Of Philostratus no earlier English version has appeared. Students of erotic language, imagery, and rhetoric will find the book a mine of information, but its chief literary value is its demonstration of the decadence of late Greek prose. Those who inveigh against the decay of standards in modern literature and hold up to view the excellence of the Greeks should recall that even the Greeks were not always at their best. University of Kansas

L. R. Lind

University of Michigan Linguistic Program

As part of the Summer Session of the University of Michigan, a "Linguistic Program" is offered from June 25 to August 17, 1951. A wide range of courses and conferences in various phases of the linguistic field will be available. Among items of particular note are: the "Seminar in Applied Linguistics," sponsored by the American Council of Learned Societies; the availability of the collections of the *Linguistic Atlas* and the *Middle English Dictionary* to scholars who wish to do research in these fields; a series of eight public lectures (July 23 to August 3), by Professor R. Jakobson, of Harvard University. Among the other visiting faculty personnel will be Professor Charles Bruneau, of the Sorbonne.

Horace's own tastes and habits were naturally Epicurean, but he everywhere exhibits a hearty admiration for that *virtus* which is certainly Stoical rather than Epicurean.—Page.

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